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Featherstone  
Urban District Council

—x—

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical

Officer of Health

1939

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
for the  
**URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF**  
**FEATHERSTONE**  
for the  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1939**

—————X—————

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you my Twentieth Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December 1939, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Hilsley).

Owing to the prevailing conditions, both Reports are abbreviated, and only salient facts referred to.

**POPULATION.** The population for the year 1939 as given to me by the Registrar General is 13600, being a decrease of 90 on the previous year. This figure (13600) I am instructed to use for estimating the Birth Rate, but the Death Rate is estimated from a smaller population of 13420.

The size of the Sanitary Area is 4425 acres, and contains 3492 houses, showing a census of 3.8 per house.

During the year 38 new houses have been erected and inhabited, wholly by private enterprise.



**RATEABLE VALUE—**

	April 1939	October 1939
	£49757	£50642
1d Rate (gross) equals	£215. 7.5	£211. 9.11
1d Rate (net) equals	£191.14.9	£192.12. 5
		£      s      d
General Rate laid April 1939 at 10/-.....		23008 15 3
General Rate laid October 1939 at 10/-.....		23114 13 9
		<hr/>
		£46123 9 0
		<hr/>

**WATER USED—**

Half-year to March 1939	33,932,000 gallons costing £2825.5. 11
Half-year to Sept. 1939	35,909,000 gallons costing £3243.1. 4

Average cost per 1000 gallons—20.8 pence

**RAINFALL during 1939—**

January .....	4.35 inches
February .....	0.88 inches
March .....	1.83 inches
April .....	1.12 inches
May .....	2.41 inches
June .....	1.43 inches
July .....	6.52 inches
August .....	1.14 inches
September .....	1.52 inches
October .....	1.76 inches
November .....	3.22 inches
December .....	1.62 inches
	<hr/>
	27.80 inches
	<hr/>

The average day's rainfall was .076 inches. The wettest month was July, and the driest month February. There was rain on 138 days during the year, and 227 days without rain.

**OUT-RELIEF** (from Public Assistance) from 1st April 1939 to 31st March 1940 was £12686.5.8, giving a weekly average of persons numbering 599.

**UNEMPLOYMENT.** The average number of unemployed during the year was—

Men 500	Women 46 wholly unemployed
Men 31	Women 11 partially unemployed

**BIRTH RATE.** 243 Live births were registered during 1939 (118 males and 125 females), 3 of the females being illegitimate. In addition to the Live births, there were 11 Still births.

This gives a Birth Rate of 17.86, and Still Births .82.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 15.0 for Live Births and .59 Still Births.

**DEATH RATE.** Total deaths during the year were 138 (73 males and 65 females). This gives a Death Rate of 10.28. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

Of the total deaths in this area, 11 died before they were a year old, and 66 were 60 years and upwards.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.** This is measured by the proportion of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Registered Births. The total Deaths under 1 year were 11, and total Live Births 243, giving an Infantile Mortality of 45.

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales was 50.

**ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.** The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases (Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea) amount to 3, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of .22.

The following Table shows the number of Infectious Cases notified during the year 1939—

	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	... 36	-
Diphtheria	... 96	1
Measles	... 5	-
Pneumonia	... 12	12
Enteric Fever	... -	-
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	... 4	-
Erysipelas	... 2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	155	13
Tuberculosis Pulmonary (new cases)	... 11	5
Tuberculosis, Other Forms (new cases)	... 3	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	169	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1939

		Male	Female
Digestive Diseases	...	-	1
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	...	-	-
Puerperal Sepsis	...	-	-
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	-	2
Congenital Debility (and Premature Birth)	...	1	3
Senility	...	6	6
Suicide	...	-	-
Other Violence	...	7	3
Other Defined Diseases	...	6	4
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	...	1	-
Diabetes	...	-	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage (Apoplexy)	...	5	5
Heart Disease	...	18	15
Aneurysm	...	-	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	3	4
Bronchitis	...	-	1
Pneumonia	...	8	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	-
Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	1	-
Whooping Cough	...	1	-
Diphtheria	...	1	-
Influenza	...	5	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	1
Syphilis	...	1	-
Cancer	...	5	6
	Total	73	65
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
Legitimate	...	4	7
Illegitimate	...	-	-
	Total	4	7



# CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939

CAUSES	All Ages	Un- der 1yr	1-2 yrs	2-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15- 25 yrs	25- 45 yrs	45-60 yrs	Over 60 yrs
Digestive Diseases	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Diseases	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Congenital Debility	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senility	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Violence	10	1	-	-	2	1	2	1	3
Other Defined Diseases	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
Diabetes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Heart Diseases	33	-	-	-	2	3	3	9	16
Aneurysm	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	12	4	3	-	1	-	-	1	3
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Influenza	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	5	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Syphilis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cancer	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	6
Total	138	11	4	1	6	6	18	26	66

# BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1939

	England & Wales	126 Boro's & London	148 Small- er Towns 20,000 to 50,000	London County	Feather- stone
<b>Births</b>					
	<b>Rates per 1000 Population</b>				
Live	15.00	14.80	15.60	12.30	17.86
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	0.82
<b>Deaths</b>					
All Causes	12.10	12.00	11.20	11.90	10.28
Typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.07
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.07
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.52
<b>Notifications</b>					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.76	1.53	2.68
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98	7.15
Typhoid	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37	0.14
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99	0.89
		<b>Rates per 1000 Live Births</b>			
Deaths under 1 year	50.	52.	40.	48.	45.
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis und. 2 yrs.	4.60	6.30	3.00	8.20	4.10
<b>Maternal Mortality</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77		Not available		0.00
Others	2.16		Not available		8.23
Total	2.93		Not available		8.23
		<b>Rates per 1000 Total Births (Live &amp; Still)</b>			
<b>Maternal Mortality</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74		Not available		0.00
Others	2.08		Not available		7.87
Total	2.82		Not available		7.87
<b>Notifications</b>					
Puerperal Fever )	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31	15.74
Puerperal Pyrexia )				14.22	

# STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS

## DISEASES RECEIVED DURING 1939

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained		Cases removed to Hospital	
Small pox	-	Scarlet Fever	36
Diphtheria (including Mem. Group)	96	Diphtheria	96
Typhoid (Enteric Fever)	-	Enteric Fever	-
Paratyphoid (Enteric Fever)	-	Other Diseases	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	12		
Puerperal Pyrexia	4		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-		
Acute Poliomyelitis	-		
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	-		
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	-		
Dysentery	-		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-		
Erysipelas	2		
Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)	11		
Other Forms Tuberculosis (new cases only)	3		
Malaria—Contracted in this Country	-		
Malaria—Contracted abroad	-		
Chickenpox	-		
Measles (excluding German Measles)	5		
Whooping Cough	1		
Other Diseases	-		
		Smallpox	-
		Scarlet Fever	36
		Diphtheria	96
		Enteric Fever	-
		Other Diseases	-

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality during 1939

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulm.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 and under 10	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10 and under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 and under 20	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
20 and under 35	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 and under 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 and under 55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 and under 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	3	1	2	2	3	1	1

### Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
On Register 1 Jan. 1939	60	35	34	29	94	64
Added during year	8	3	1	2	9	5
Totals	68	38	35	31	103	69
Removed from Register during 1939	15	8	9	3	24	11
On Register 31 Dec. 1939	53	30	26	28	79	58

### Reasons for Removal of Cases from Tuberculosis Register

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
Number Died	...	2	1	-	-
Number Recovered	...	8	6	8	2
Number Left District	...	4	-	1	1
Wrong Diagnosis	...	1	1	-	-
Totals		15	8	9	3



**TUBERCULOSIS.** 16 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, 10 being Pulmonary and 6 other forms of the disease. There were 7 deaths during the year. All the cases were notified previous to death. 10 of the new cases were sent to Sanatorium.

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis was .52.

The Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases were sent to Isolation Hospital. Both diseases have passed their peak and are now decreasing. The cost of treatment of the Scarlet Fever victims for 1958 days was £320/11/10, and the Diphtheria 4308 days was £838/2/7, making a total expenditure of £1158/17/5.

**VACCINATION.** 40 Primary Vaccinations were done during the year, showing only 16 per cent. of the children protected.

**CANCER.** 11 deaths from Cancer occurred in 1939 (5 males and 6 females), giving a Death Rate of .80 per 1000. The parts of the body chiefly affected were the stomach and bowel.

**HOUSING.** During the year, 38 new houses have been erected and inhabited wholly by private enterprise. My council at the beginning of the year had under consideration a further extension of building, but owing to the disturbed condition of the Country, the scheme is in abeyance. The Regulations, especially for sex consideration, call for more accommodation.

**PRIVATE STREETS.** Certain streets are urgently requiring attention, but these are also left in abeyance for the time being.

**SANITARY WORK.** Our Water Supply is good and ample. The cost per 1000 gallons was 20.8 pence. All the houses in the district, with the exception of one, are connected with the Public Water Supply.

**DRAINAGE.** The Drainage and the two Sewage Farms are satisfactory, with the exception of Ackton Wood Pastures, which is in abeyance.



**SCAVENGING.** The collection and disposal of House Refuse is done by the Council workmen, and efficiently.

During the year, 2874 loads were removed to the Destructor Works, and 2527 loads to Tips, and 2831 loads of liquid were removed from Cesspools to farm land. The cost of collection and disposal for the year 1939 amounts to £4298/10/9.

We still have 51 cesspools in this area, mostly associated with detached houses and Ackton Pastures. The cost for wages alone in giving these cesspools attention was £274/18/11.

We have at present—

2981 water and waste-water closets

30 pail closets

384 privies

38 new water closets have been provided to 38 new houses, and 3 additional closets to old property, thus giving 41 water closets on the water carriage system. On the water carriage system at present there are 3032 houses, giving a percentage of 86.8 in this area.

There are 218 wet ashpits

306 dry ashpits

2158 dust bins

30 pail closets

I would seek to draw your attention to the abbreviated report of Mr. Hilsley, which is herewith attached, and to Table C prepared by him. Mr. Hilsley leads a very full life, with many claims on his time. He is a most industrious and reliable servant to this Council, with all the necessary books in good order and up-to-date.

The West Riding County Council are the supervising authority for Child Welfare Work in this area.

There are 3 Centres for Maternity and Child Welfare, 1 Centre for Ante-Natal Work, and 1 Centre for Toddlers. We have 2 Health Visitors and 3 Certified Midwives engaged for the District.

In conclusion, I earnestly thank all the members of my Council for their kindly support on all occasions, and their constant desire to do what is necessary to further the health of the community.

I am

Yours faithfully

WM. STEVEN, M.B.

M.O.H.

21 October 1940

**URBAN DISTRICT OF FEATHERSTONE**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1939**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Thirteenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary and Cleansing Department for the year ended 31st December 1939, I have, in accordance with instructions received, curtailed the report, and, as such, it should be regarded as an interim report. All statistics will be preserved so that after the termination of the war, a report covering the period may be given.

**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.** The outbreak of hostilities has curtailed the conversion of privy closets, and the substitution of dust bins for dry ashpits, but in the year under review, 97 dry ashpits were replaced by 243 dust bins.

**SCAVENGING.** Scavenging is still done by direct labour, but owing to black-out conditions, all the work is done by day.

**SANITARY INSPECTION AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED.** It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of nuisances.

**HOUSING.** During the year, 38 new houses were erected, all by private enterprise. 73 houses were dealt with under the Housing Act 1936. Of these, 28 were rendered fit after service of Informal Notices; 30 Statutory Notices were served under Section 9, and 5 Notices under Section 11.

#### FOOD SUPPLY—

**MILK.** There was no change in the number of cowkeepers in the district during the year, and the usual routine visits were paid to the farms.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.** The centralising of slaughtering resulted in the closing of the slaughterhouses in your area towards the latter end of the year.

During the year the following animals were slaughtered—

Bullocks and Heifers	...	917
Cows	...	140
Calves	...	30
Sheep and Lambs	...	1120
Pigs	...	1035

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption, surrendered by the butchers, and destroyed by incineration—

	Whole carcase and all organs	Some part or organ	Total
Bullocks and Heifers	... 4	7	11
Calves	... 1	-	1
Cows	... 2	8	10
Pigs	... 3	6	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	10	21	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year, 226 tins of canned foods, and 23lb of bacon, were surrendered by shopkeepers, and destroyed.

**CONCLUSION.** I beg to tender my very best thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, to my staff and to my brother officials for their help, and to you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your support during a year rendered difficult by the circumstances prevailing.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

JOHN HILLSLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector



## FEATHERSTONE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

YEAR 1939

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## NUISANCE INSPECTIONS

Total Inspections in 1939 for Nuisances only	... 1009
Nuisances found in 1939	... 325
Nuisances in hand at end of 1938	... 68
Total needing abatement	... 393
Abated during 1939	... 378
Outstanding at end of 1939	... 15
Notices served—	
Informal	... 297
Complied with	... 238
Notices served—	
Statutory	... 146
Complied with	... 140
Summonses or other legal proceedings	... —
Offensive Trades : Tripe Boiler	
In district	... 1
On register	... 1
Total inspections	... 8
General condition	... good

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewer extensions in 1939	Pit Yard, Streethouse
Portions of district still requiring sewerage—	
	Ackton Wood Pastures
Improvement in defective sewers	... none
Houses not connected to sewers	... 92
Sewage disposal works—	
Any extensions in 1939	... none
Any inadequacy	... none
Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board	... none

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Privies with open middens	...	—
Privies with covered middens	...	384
Pail or tub closets	...	30
Water closets	...	2941
Waste-water closets	...	40
Privies reconstructed in 1939 as w.c.'s	...	—
Closets (other than privies) reconstructed in 1939 as w.c.'s		1
Additional closets provided for old property in 1939 as w.c.'s		3
W.c.'s constructed in 1939 for new houses	...	38
Any special action taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste-water closets and pails to w.c. system—	Action is being taken under Section 47 Public Health Act 1936	

## SCAVENGING

Is public scavenging in operation throughout district ?	...	yes
Refuse disposed of—		
By Destruction		52.46 per cent
By Tipping		47.54 per cent
Total annual cost of collection and disposal		£4298/10/9
Any extension or improvement during year	...	no

## WATER SUPPLY

Source of supply	Wakefield Corporation Waterworks
By whom distributed	Featherstone U. D. Council
Houses on public supply	... 3489
Any extension during 1939	... no
Has supply been satisfactory—	
In quality	... yes
In quantity	... yes

## MILK SUPPLY

Samples taken by officers of local authority—	
For Methylene blue test	... —
Presence of tuberculosis	... 3
Registered cowkeepers in district	... 27
Total number of cowsheds	... 36
Total number of milk cows	... 250
Cowsheds inspected during year	... 36
Total number of cowshed inspections	... 144
Wholesale traders registered	... 6
Retail milk sellers registered	... 28

Any retailers been removed from register	...	no
Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 & 1938—		
Production of “ Accredited ” Milk		
Samples examined bacteriologically	...	4

## MEAT INSPECTION

Any public abattoir	...	no
Total number of slaughterhouses licensed	...	11
Unsatisfactory as regards structure, position etc.	...	4
Total inspections of slaughterhouses	...	612

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924

Any Meat Marketing scheme in force	...	no
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## OTHER FOODS

Bakehouses in district	...	4
Total inspections	...	16
Any bakehouses underground	...	no

## SCHOOLS

Number in district	...	8
Number visited by M.O.H.	...	8
Action taken	...	none
Schools closed by M.O.H.	...	none
General sanitary conditions	...	good

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations, each of 30 minutes' duration, taken during 1939	...	12
Number showing excessive emission of black smoke	...	none

## SHOPS ACT 1934, SECTIONS 10 & 13 (3)

Visits paid under above Act during 1939	...	96
Unsatisfactory conditions found	...	5
Remedied	...	none

## TENTS, VANS, SHEDS ETC.

Number in district	...	none
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## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Number in district	...	1
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## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diseases specially prevalent in 1939	Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------

State months	August, September, October, November & December
Diseases specially added to notifiable list	Measles

## MORTUARIES

For accidents	Public Mortuary owned by Feath- erstone U. D. Council
For infectious cases other than at hospital	... none
For other cases	Public Mortuary owned by Feath- erstone U. D. Council
For post mortem examinations—	Public Mortuary owned by Feath- erstone U. D. Council

## SANITARY STAFF

Present annual salary of M.O.H.	£120
Name of Sanitary Inspector	John Hilsley
Annual salary as Inspector	£400
Other appointments held—	
	Cleansing Superintendent, Housing Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
Salary for such other appointments	... none
Assistants	1 Assistant and 1 Clerk
Is staff sufficient	... yes
Does M.O.H. receive copies of memos and circulars distributed by Ministry of Health	... yes





